

Health Update:

Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM)

May 29, 2007

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: JANE DRUMMOND
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM)

On February 22, 2007, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) issued a Health Guidance document, "Initial Management in a Hospital Setting of Persons Contaminated With Radioactive Materials and Exposed to Radiation Following the Explosion of a Dirty Bomb." The purpose of this Health Guidance was to remind hospitals of the need to be prepared to triage, decontaminate, and treat persons exposed to radioactive materials from a dirty bomb or other radiological event. It also was intended to provide practical information that hospitals could utilize as they developed or updated their emergency response plans and trained their staff. (The document is available at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/HGRadiationHospMgmt2-22-07.pdf)

Soon after this Health Guidance document was issued, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released comprehensive guidance for health care providers (primarily physicians) on the clinical diagnosis and treatment of victims following a mass casualty radiological/nuclear event. This guidance, entitled **Radiation Event Medical Management (REMM)**, is meant to provide evidence-based, usable information with sufficient background and context to make complex issues understandable to those without formal radiation medicine expertise.

REMM can be accessed online at <http://www.remm.nlm.gov/index.html>. An option is to download the materials onto a computer hard drive, or onto a CD or other portable storage device (click on the link entitled "Download This Site").

The purpose of this Health Update is to ensure that medical providers, hospitals, and public health professionals are aware of REMM. The information and clinical protocols contained here (including a tool to calculate the estimated radiation dose a victim has received) can be very useful to clinicians, and will supplement the information found in the February 22 Health Guidance document.

Any questions should be directed to DHSS's Office of Community and Public Health Emergency Coordination (OCPHEC) at 573/751-6161, or 800-392-0272. FAX number is 573/562-5348.

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